

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /132 W

----- 039698

O R 240747 Z JUN 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5149

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7381

E. O. 11652: N. A.

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: SIT IN ON PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT

1. THE LOCAL PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE CALLED US THIS MORNING TO TELL US THAT PAN AMERICAN' S WEST BOUND FLIGHT SCHEDULED THROUGH DELHI EARLY THIS MORNING (JUNE 24) IS BEING DELAYED AT DELHI AIRPORT BECAUSE 107 UGANDAN ASIANS ARE REFUSING TO DISEMBARK.

ACCORDING TO PANAM, THESE PASSENGERS ORIGINATED IN DELHI AND HAD PURCHASED ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO BANGKOK. THEY TRAVELED INDIVIDUALLY TO BANGKOK WHERE THEY SOUGHT AND WERE REFUSED PASSAGE TO LONDON. THEY THEN ARRANGED TO RETURN TO DELHI ON BOARD THE SAME AIRCRAFT.

2. PAN AMERICAN HAS INFORMED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT IT HAS FULFILLED ITS CONTRACT TO CARRY THESE PASSENGERS, WHO ARE THEREFORE TREASPASSING ON THE PLANE. IT HAS ASKED THAT THE PASSENGERS

BE REMOVED. AN OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ON THE SCENE AND
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HAS BEEN ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT. SINCE THE PASSENGERS ARE PRESUMED TO BEAR BRITISH PASSPORTS, AN OFFICER OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAS ALSO BEEN ON BOARD TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE PASSENGERS TO LEAVE, TO NO AVAIL. ALL REPORTS ARE THAT THE PASSENGERS ARE PEACEFUL AND THAT THEY HAVE MADE NO RPT NO THREATS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN ORDER TO MAKE KNOWN PANAM'S POSITION REGARDING ILLEGAL TREASPASS AND TO STIMULATE GOI ACTION TO GET THE PASSENGERS OFF THE PLANE. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME EARLY RELUCTANCE TO ACT BECAUSE IT WAS MAINTAINED THAT INDIA COULD NOT LEGALLY FORCE FOREIGN NATIONAL TO ENTER INDIA, WE NOW SEEM TO BE MAKING SOME PROGRESS. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS INDICATED IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO FORCIBLE EJECTION PROVIDING ACTUAL TREASPASS IS ESTABLISHED, AND NOW ACTION IS UP TO THE AIRPORT AND POLICE AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THIS BUREAUCRACY ORDINARILY DOES NOT COMMUNICATE VERY WELL, LET ALONE ON A SUNDAY, SO WE WILL KEEP OURSELVES ENGAGED TO SEE IF WE CAN GET THE PLANE OFF BY 6:00 PM LOCAL TIME THIS EVENING WHEN A NEW CREW COMES ON DUTY.
SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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